Dear Faculty, Staff, and Students:

We are pleased to report on the February 2024 meetings of the Board of Managers. At this third set of meetings of the Board for the 2023-24 academic year, the Board focused attention on multiple aspects of College’s educational and financial health as the implementation of our strategic plan, Better Learning, Broader Impact – Haverford 2030, continues.

On Friday, February 9, President Raymond briefed the Board on campus developments against a national backdrop of increased political attention on higher education, free speech, and campus climate. The Board–and student, faculty, and staff representatives in attendance–had a rich conversation about freedom of expression, academic freedom, dialogue across difference, and our shared community of care and concern.

In a later plenary session, the Board discussed plans for a forthcoming fundraising campaign in support of Haverford 2030. While the campaign will not publicly launch for a number of years, there is great interest across the Haverford community in supporting the plan’s priorities, including through investments in teaching and curriculum, financial aid and access, career and professional advising, ethical inquiry and leadership, all enabled by building the College’s endowment. The Board affirmed its commitment to significantly growing the endowment so it can provide an enduring foundation for Haverford and the College’s ability to provide a rigorous, ethically-attuned liberal arts education for current and future generations of students.

Later on Friday, the Bryn Mawr Board of Trustees came to Lutnick Library for the annual joint meeting of the Bi-Co boards. In mixed groups of six, board members heard updates from each college’s career center directors and discussed the boards’ roles in supporting the post-graduate successes of Haverford and Bryn Mawr students.

Among official actions, at the recommendation of the Educational Affairs Committee, the Board approved Dan Grin (Physics), Alvin Grissom (Computer Science), Guangtian Ha (Religion), Ryan Lei (Psychology), Qrescent Mali Mason (Philosophy), and Sara Mathieson (Computer Science) for tenure and promotion to the rank of associate professor. The Board also approved tenure and the rank of associate professor for newly-hired colleague Reginald McGee (Mathematics). The Board extends its congratulations to all seven! These outstanding members of the faculty offer testimony to Haverford’s continued academic and intellectual richness.

Among other business:

- The Student Affairs Committee heard updates from Honor Council about current challenges and opportunities in utilizing and strengthening the Honor Code; from Students’ Council about interest in more student engagement with the Board; from the Dean about outcomes for the Class of 2023’s graduates; and from this year’s Student Employment Task Force.
- The Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Antiracism Committee discussed multiple dimensions of campus climate and challenges relating to expression and academic freedom.
● The Property Committee discussed the current Comprehensive Campus Plan process and emerging themes, campus maintenance, and multiple anticipated capital projects in residential housing, athletics, and emission-reducing energy infrastructure.

● The External Affairs Committee reviewed positive momentum in philanthropic giving to the College, strong admission results thus far for the Class of 2028, and communications challenges in a period of global conflicts.

● The Honorary Degrees Committee recommended honorary degree candidates, drawn from community nominations, to the Board.

● The Finance Committee discussed budgeting assumptions and a draft budget for the 2024-25 fiscal year and will receive a completed budget proposal from Senior Staff at its April meeting.

● The Audit and Risk Management Committee advanced for Board approval the 990 and 990-T and covered a range of cyclical risk and compliance topics.

● The Investment Committee reviewed market trends and portfolio allocations, and it discussed an analysis of potential impacts of the forthcoming comprehensive campaign on the endowment given varying capital campaign gift assumptions.

● The Nominations and Governance Committee continued its annual processes of overseeing the Board’s membership and governance structures.

This spring marks the conclusion of Charley Beever ’74’s chairship of the Board of Managers, a role he has held since 2019, following 10 years of service as Manager. We look forward to celebrating Charley’s many contributions to the Board and to Haverford later this spring. At this meeting, the Board elected Michael B. Kim ’85 to serve as the next chair of the Board of Managers, effective July 1, 2024. Michael brings to the role extraordinary leadership and vision, evidenced throughout his remarkable business career as founder-chairman of MBK partners and through his abiding commitment to Haverford, a place he credits with honing his intellect, sense of community, and humanitarian values. The Board will provide a fuller communication about this leadership transition, inclusive of the vice chair role, following its April 27 meeting.

We would like to thank all the students, faculty, and staff who contributed to these successful meetings.

Sincerely,

Charley Beever ’74, chair
Michael B. Kim ’85, vice chair
Wendy Raymond, president